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The Rez Sisters Worksheet

**1. Reflect on the importance of the character (spirit?) not seen by all the character but seen by only one or a few of the characters and discuss that character’s importance to the dramatic action and the development of the plot.**

* Nanabush seems very mystical in The Rez Sisters. The sisters describe him as a trickster. Nanabush seems so always be there when the sisters are talking about their problems and the sisters use him as an outlet. It is almost like Nanabush is watching over and taking care of the sisters. Nanabush is there for people who have been through something traumatic or through some sort of struggle. Nanabush is somewhat of a comfort for these people, and it makes it a bit more intimate and in a way kind of special for these people to be able to see Nanabush, while others can’t. He shows up when the women are fighting almost as if he is trying to get them to stop or if he is trying to listen to their worries in an effort to help in some way.

**2. Compare the aspirations and socio-economic level of the characters in this play with those in Wedding Band, Queen's Garden, and Real Women.**

* In each of these plays, there is some sort of ambition. In Wedding Band, Julia wants to move to a northern state to have more freedom and more opportunities so she can have a better like with her boyfriend, who is a white man. In the Queen’s Garden, a girl is trying to assimilate to her new environment where she is seen as a minority because of her ethnicity and her social class. In Real Women Have Curves, women are struggling to make ends meet and live their lives as immigrants/immigrant’s children in the United States. In the Rez Sisters, the sisters are trying to win a bingo competition in order to get money to buy things they want/need, even if it is the simplest thing, such as household appliances. All of these plays show women of color trying to do better for themselves and prosper is some way. Another thing these plays have in common is that they do not lose sight of their background. They are proud of their ethnicity and they do not let that get in their way of achieving their goals.

**3. Compare the role of women and the depiction of men in this play with that in Real Women Have Curves**

* In Real Women Have Curves, the women play very strong roles and they make it seem as if they do not need a man to do what they set their mind to. They will do anything and everything in order to survive and help their family move forward in life. The older women show the younger girls to be more free and independent for themselves and not depend on any man. The think a man will only use a women and they only focus on the exterior of a women and judge them by their looks and belittle them for it. In the Rez Sisters, the women seem as if they have detached themselves from men. Zhaboonigan was raped and that is the biggest description and overview we get from men in this time period living in this tribe. Although Nanabush could be seen as a male or female, if he is interpreted as a male, he actually seems to be protective of the women, but he is a spirit so it would technically be a separate view of men, than the actual men of the tribe.